

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 19 of page 21 with the following paragraph.

In an especially preferred embodiment of this aspect of the present invention the protein lacking a cysteine residue which is responsible for dimer formation contains a consensus sequence according to the following sequence

CC(Y)₂₅₋₂₉CYYYC(Y)₃₀₋₃₅XC(Y)₃₇₋₃₄CYC (Formula I) [SEQ ID NO:3],

wherein C denotes cysteine, Y denotes any amino acid including cysteine and X denotes any amino acid except cysteine.

More preferably the protein lacking a cysteine residue which is responsible for dimer formation according to this aspect of the invention contains a consensus sequence according to the following sequence

C(Y)₂₈CYYYC(Y)₃₀₋₃₂XC(Y)₃₁CYC (Formula II) [SEQ ID NO:4],

wherein C, X and Y have the same meaning as defined above.

Even more preferably the protein lacking a cysteine residue which is responsible for dimer formation according to this aspect of the invention contains a consensus sequence according to the following sequence

C(X)₂₈CXXXC(X)₃₁₋₃₃C(X)₃₁CXC (Formula III) [SEQ ID NO:5],

wherein C and X have the same meaning as defined above.